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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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44
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CCO-00 AF-10 SAM-01 IO-14 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 PA-04

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 CPR-02

DRC-01 /104 W
---------- 121221
Z 121654Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 507

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3934

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE ON GUINEA-BISSAU
INDEPENDENCE

REF: LISBON 3831

1. WHILE SEPTEMBER 10 HAS OF COURSE COME AND GONE WITHOUT A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRESIDENT SPINOLA, WE FEEL THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE FIRST FORMAL ACT OF DECOLONIZATION BY PORTUGAL FOR A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO SPINOLA STILL EXISTS THOUGH SLIPPING FAST. THE SEPTEMBER 10 ACT OF RECOGNITION OF GUINEA-BISSAU REPRESENTS THE FIRST IMPLEMENTING STEP BY PORTUGAL OF THE SELF-DETERMINATION POLICY LONG URGED ON PORTUGAL BY THE U.S. IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, MANY PORTUGUESE HAVE COME TO DOUBT THE SINCERITY OF U.S.DEDICATION TO THAT POLICY. SINCE APRIL 25, MANY PORTUGUESE HAVE FELT THAT THE USG, WHICH HAD VIRTUALLY BECOME THE LAST FRIEND IN THE WORLD TO THE CAETANO GOVERNMENT, HAS BEEN RATHER LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE REPLACEMENT OF THE PAST GOVERNMENT BY THE SPINOLA REGIME. WE FEEL THAT BOTH OF THESE DOUBTS WOULD BE SET TO REST BY A MESSAGE ALONG THE LINES OF THAT RECOMMENDED
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REFTEL, AND FURTHERMORE THAT SUCH A MESSAGE WOULD

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BE A SUBSTANTIAL BOOST TO SPINOLA IN THE PRESENT
IN-FIGHTING WITHIN THE REGIME. FURTHERMORE, IN LIGHT
OF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO GUINEA-BISSAU PRESIDENT CABRAL, IT
IS A BIT DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN THE ABSENCE OF A
COMPANION LETTER TO PRESIDENT SPINOLA.

2. IMMEDIATE REPLY REQUESTED.
SCOTT

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 12 SEP 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
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TAGS: PFOR, PO, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (SPINOLA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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